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Vol. 92, No. 31
Monday, January 27, 2014

A healthy improvement

Health Center set to move from Montpelier Hall to new location in March

By **SAMANTHA ELLIS**
contributing writer

On March 17, the University Health Center will open its new 250,000 square foot renovated space for students. Despite the increased space, not much is changing about the health center — for now.

The Health Center is moving from its temporary location in Montpelier Hall to the corner of South Mason street and Martin Luther King, Jr. Way as part of the Student Success Center — which will open in the fall. The renovated space is made up of what was once Constitution Hall and the former hospital.

The new center was planned and built with additional spaces for medical services. However, according to William Newton, communications specialist at the University Health Center, these



LAUREN GORDON / THE BREEZE

The new University Health Center will also have new medical services available to students in the fall, including a pharmacy and an X-ray room.

services won't be available immediately.

"We won't be offering any

new services right away, but the Student Success Center was built with additional room to

add centers for physical therapy, optometry, ambulatory and pharmaceutical services," Newton said.

The UHC projects that some of the new medical services will be available to students in the fall semester of 2014. Stephen Rodgers, UHC medical director, hopes that they will be able to increase the staff to accommodate the larger facility in the coming year.

With these immense additions comes a need to change the way people view the clinic. While the move to Montpelier has already brought improvement in the form of larger examination rooms and a wider range of available medicine, there is still plenty that the UHC is adding to benefit students.

"Basically, the new center is triple in size and in the number of examining rooms as we had

see **HEALTH**, page 4

Dukes snap losing streak

Kent has career day in 58-56 win over the College of Charleston



MATT SCHMACHTENBERG / THE BREEZE

Redshirt senior forward Andrey Semenov scored eight points and grabbed six rebounds as JMU beat the College of Charleston 58-56 Saturday afternoon.

By **STEPHEN PROFFITT**
The Breeze

Experience dictates the final minute of a college basketball game. Throw out the plays and scripts — it's about whether you've been there before or not.

The youngest team in the nation may not win many one-possession games, considering its lack of experience, but JMU did so Saturday escaping with a 58-56 win over the College of Charleston at the buzzer.

With 23 seconds remaining, Charleston — coming out of a timeout — had one more possession with a chance to tie or win, down 58-56. The ball hovered at the top of the key, and with less than 10 seconds left, the Cougars made moves: they went inside where the Dukes crashed — ensuring no easy bucket — but remained calm enough not to draw a foul call.

Charleston's junior forward Adjehi Baru was forced to kick the ball out with less than five seconds to go to junior guard Anthony Stitt, who launched a shot right in front of the Cougars bench that would've won them the game, but the shot was short and the Convocation Center erupted as JMU picked up its seventh win of the year.

"I told them we needed a stop," sophomore guard Ron Curry said in regards to the huddle he called coming out of the timeout.

Curry, who mostly played behind Devon Moore last season, is still learning how to run an offense. But his huddle before the final 23 seconds signals his growth and maturity, even for a player with just 37 starts.

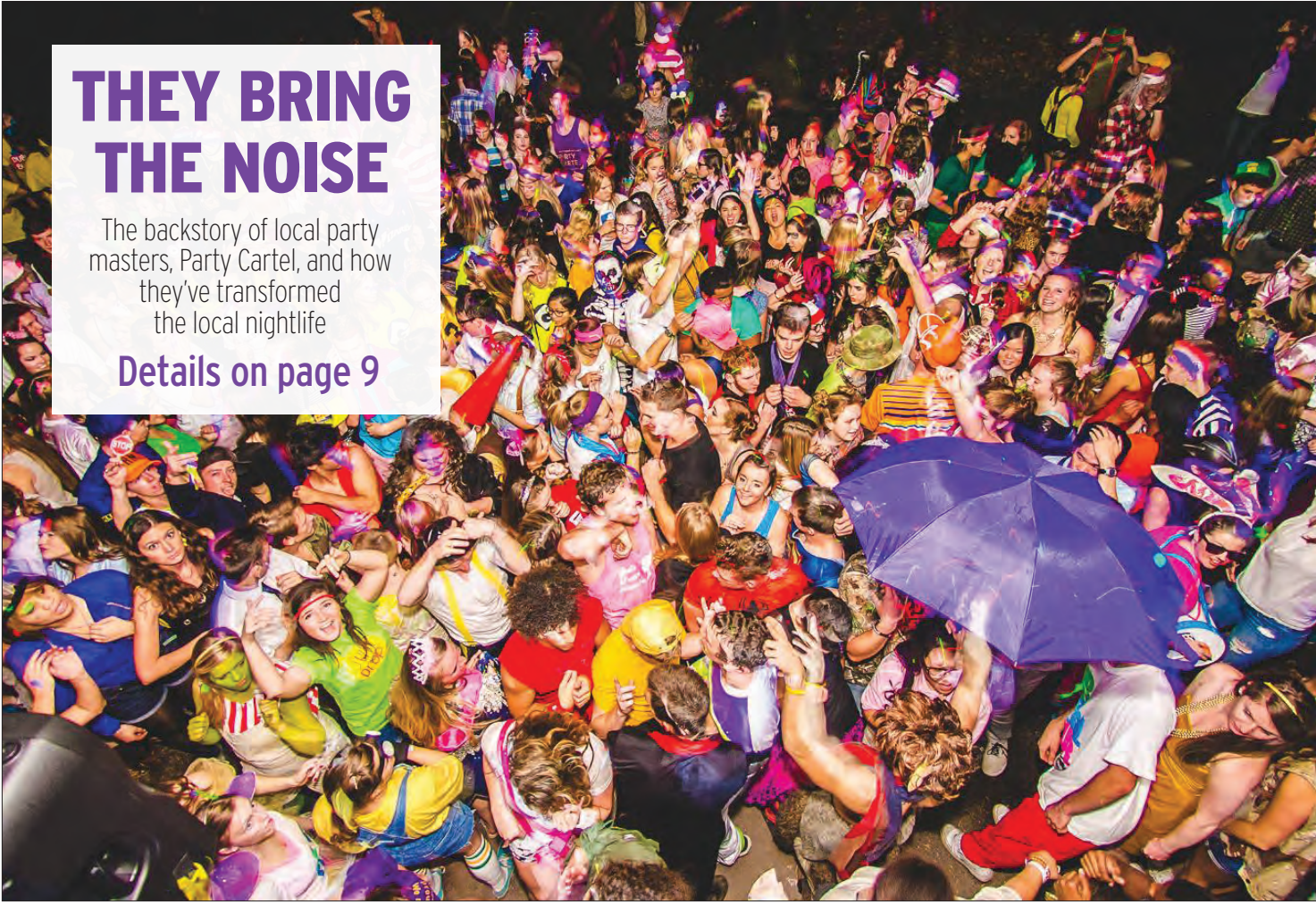
"Just one stop away from a win. We gave them the shot we wanted," Curry said. "Not necessarily gave it to them, but we got the shot we wanted them to

see **BASKETBALL**, page 12

THEY BRING THE NOISE

The backstory of local party masters, Party Cartel, and how they've transformed the local nightlife

Details on page 9



COURTESY OF PARTY CARTEL

Art never sleeps

Court Square Theater hosts its first 24-hour live performance festival

By **MELANIE FARRELL**
contributing writer

Finding enough acts for a 24-hour live-art festival sounds daunting. However, after seeing the surplus of talent in Harrisonburg, 24 hours actually doesn't seem to be enough time for all the acts.

Friday's 24 Hour Project at downtown's Court Square Theater featured talent from a blend of live acts including musical performances, improv, comedians, poets and short films, with all proceeds going to the theater. The event began at 5 p.m. on Friday and ended at 5 p.m. on Saturday. About 40 people attended and continuously circulated back and forth over the course of the 24-hour period.

"We have to understand that unless we support it, the art won't thrive," Angela M. Carter, a local poet who performed at the 24 Hour Project, said.

This event was more than just an experiment, it was a means to bring awareness to local art. In such a diverse area with all types of talents, Harrisonburg artists have finally found a place to appreciate and listen to each other.

Court Square Theater was an accommodating location for the project. Outside the theater, concessions were served to keep the audience's spirits up for the duration of the event. The lighting inside the theater was dim except for the spotlight, which provided just enough glow to highlight the artists; the atmosphere made it easy to lose track of time.

"I think I'm gonna be back tomorrow too," Mary Yoder, who attended the event in the evening on Friday, said.

At the event, each attendee bought a wristband for \$10, which granted them access for the entire event. The majority of the audience admitted to leaving late in the evening and returning the next day; however, when asked by the emcee, one or two audience members declared that they would stick it out for the duration of the 24 Hour Project, displaying huge dedication to local arts.

see **PROJECT**, page 10



TRIXIE HADDON / THE BREEZE

Local artist Dead Professional performs at the 24 Hour Project at Court Square Theater on Friday. Forty six artists were each assigned a 15-minute time slot to perform. The show ran from 5 p.m. on Friday to 5 p.m. on Saturday.

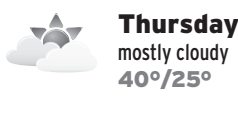
1/27 INSIDE

3 NEWS
Updated inspirations
Duke Hall renovation encourages artistry in students and faculty.

6 OPINION
The final frontier
LGBT issues at the forefront of sports ethical conversations.

9 LIFE
The Music Man
From organizing JMU's biggest concerts to playing in basements.

11 SPORTS
Piloting the JMU attack
Nikki Newman helps run the Dukes' offense in her role as a "point-forward."



The Breeze

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The Breeze, the student-run newspaper of James Madison University, serves student, faculty and staff readership by reporting news involving the campus and local community. The Breeze strives to be impartial and fair in its reporting and firmly believes in First Amendment rights.

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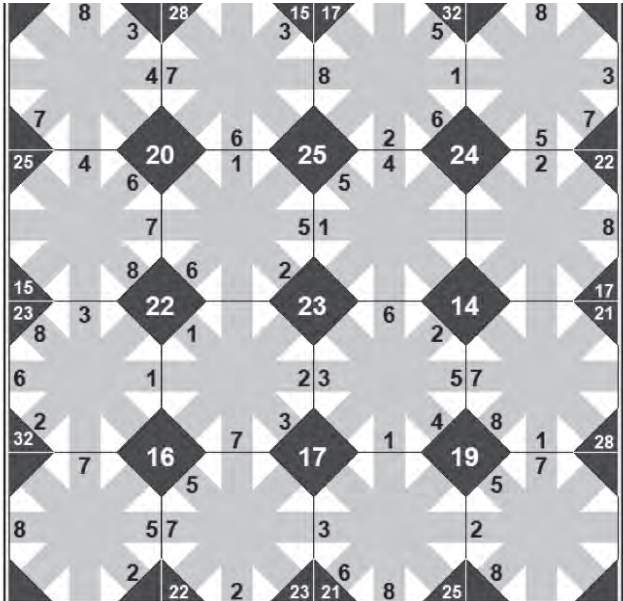


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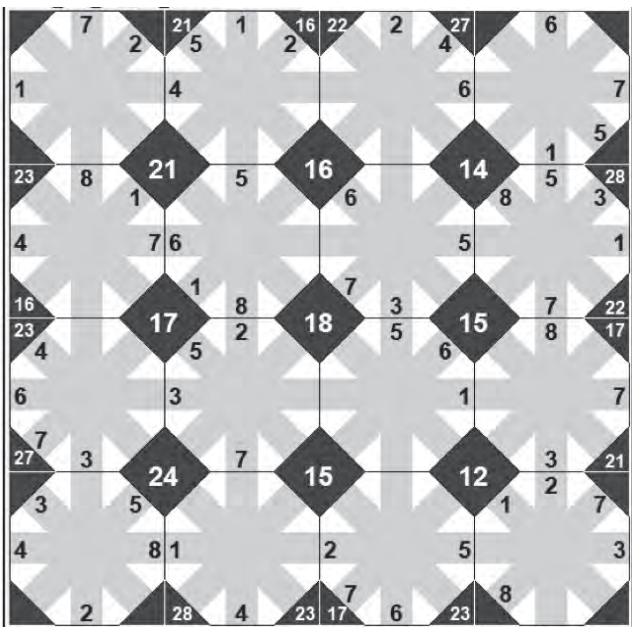


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The OCTO puzzle



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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

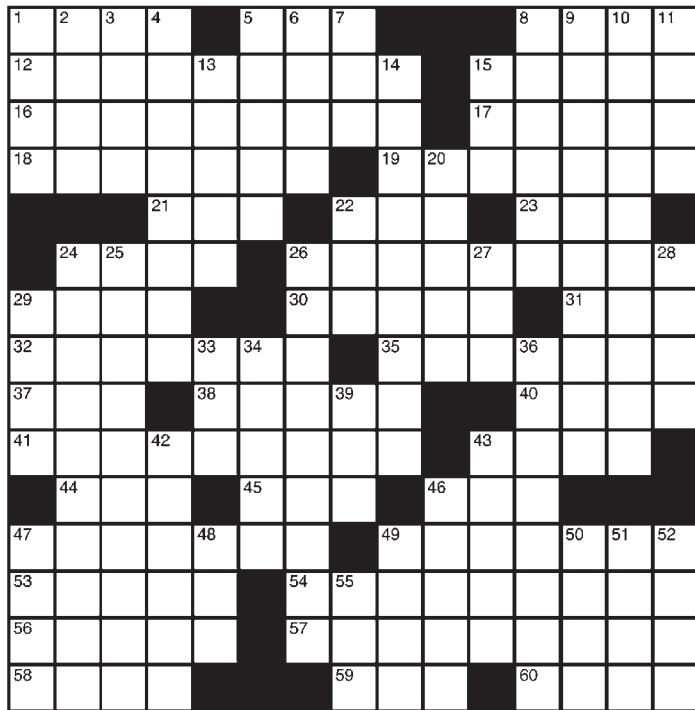
Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- 70s quartet consisting of two married couples
- Wall St. strategy
- Addams family nickname
- 1964 Glenn Ford/Geraldine Page romantic comedy
- Seek protection from
- Cub leader
- Laura of "ER"
- Wait
- All thumbs
- See 59-Across
- Sequence often seen above WXYZ
- Training systs.
- Words with end or angle
- Get real
- They may be tapped
- Turkish War
- polloi
- Portable storage container
- 1948 Literature Nobel
- "Well, well!"
- Actress Ryan
- Paris pronoun
- Complex
- They're not gentlemen
- Letters concerning available space
- Eye
- Sci-fi escape craft
- "All greased up and ready to sing" '70s-'80s TV hosts
- Early NASA probe
- Delhi tongue
- Ben & Jerry's, e.g.
- Advocated
- Deadlock breaker
- Road to the Forum
- With 21-Across, Cyndi Lauper hit

DOWN

- Puts in
- Red shade
- "Hulk" star Eric
- Where to see major decisions?
- Slacken
- 100 satang
- No ordinary rock
- Much of Siberia
- Focus of a 1990 psychology best-seller
- Reach extenders
- Party person
- Hayride invite
- Shortened
- Narrow inlet
- Much December radio fare
- Showerside item
- Colorful top
- Idaho/Wyoming landscape
- Loan offer
- Opponent
- Web extension?
- Energy source
- Start of an early Grafton title



By Timothy L. Meaker

60 More than just thought-over

Thursday's puzzle solved

S	C	O	R	E		H	A	S	P		C	H	O	P
N	A	D	A	L		O	N	C	E		O	O	N	A
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D	A	W	G			O	N	K	P		G	O	M	E
E	T	A				T	O	E	S		N	E	W	A
C	U	T	T	I		N	G				C	O	R	N
O	N	T	I			M	E				R	A	P	S
Y	E	S	N	O							V	I	V	A
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I	O	T	A			A	L	U	M		T	O	X	I
T	R	I	M			L	E	N	S		S	L	I	C

- Victim of Artemis
- Provide a segue for
- Great Plains st.
- Over there
- Jazz contemporary of Hancock and Jarrett
- 1998 World Series player
- Feng —
- Support
- Fermat's forte
- Hair-removal brand
- 1815 title character who "thought a little too well of herself"
- Stagger
- Med. orders

WORLD NEWS

Cuba announces plans for oil exploration

El Nuevo Herald

MIAMI — Cuba has announced new plans to drill for oil from land, while experts say its prospects for deep-water explorations remain grim because of more promising opportunities in Mexico, Brazil and West Africa.

The state-owned Cuba Petroleo, or CUPET, this year plans to drill a 27,000-foot-long well, the longest ever drilled on the island, according to an EFE news agency dispatch based on a Havana television news report late Tuesday.

That well and others will be drilled from land in a region 60 to 100 miles east of Havana, using horizontal drilling techniques to reach deposits of heavy crude a few miles offshore, according to the report. CUPET drilled 10 such wells in 2013.

CUPET produces about half of the communist-ruled country's oil consumption. Venezuela provides another 115,000 barrels per day, including 25,000 barrels for refining

in a Cienfuegos plant owned as a joint venture by the two countries. CUPET's announcement Tuesday does not signal a change in the country's plans for oil exploration, said Jorge Pinon, a former Amoco executive and now a Cuba oil expert at the University of Texas.

China's smog reaches US soil

Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — China's export industry is responsible for dirty emissions that are blowing across the Pacific Ocean and contributing to smog in the United States, a new scientific study says.

About one-fifth of the pollution China spews into the atmosphere comes from producing goods for export to the United States and other countries, according to the paper by a group of scientists that was published Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Winds blow pollutants from Chinese power plants and factories across the Pacific in about six days, where they boost levels of smog in the United States.

Los Angeles and parts of the eastern U.S. experienced at least one extra day of smog that exceeded federal health standards for ozone in 2006 as a result

of emissions from export manufacturing in China, the study found.

"Rising emissions produced in China are a key reason global emissions of air pollutants have remained at a high level during 2000-2009 even as emissions produced in the United States, Europe and Japan have decreased," the scientists wrote.

Europe, US differ about Sochi threats

Los Angeles Times

MOSCOW — The Russians are quite capable of securing the Sochi Olympic Games despite the Sturm und Drang, several European and American security experts said this week.

Every couple of years, the terrorism fear builds again. A sporting attraction with an international audience looms — an Olympics, a World Cup, a Super Bowl and those who devote their time to making sense of the irrational world of terror can't help but make the connection.

International event, international television audience, international press coverage: It all adds up to an ideal setting for an international terror attack. International terrorists seek to make statements on a global stage, and there

are no bigger stages.

The concerns are building again as the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, approach. But this time the fears — from the White House, the military, security experts — see a unique confluence of dangers.

Sochi is a Russian resort city, about the size of Wichita, Kan., but tucked between the stunning Black Sea coast and the breathtaking Caucasus Mountains. It's also less than a day's drive from Chechnya, a piece of Russia that's been fighting not to be considered a piece of Russia for centuries.

The violence in Chechnya today is not as intense as it was during the early 1990s, when the republic was fighting for independence. Not long after it restarted in 1999, Russian President Vladimir Putin tied it to the international war on terror, noting that the new Chechen fighters were associated with radical Islam. But some who study terror also note that the threat is well-known to the Russian forces in charge of security at these games.

"After all, this is where the Russians live," said Thomas Nichols, a professor of national security affairs at the U.S. Naval War College. "And this is what they live with."

Compiled from McClatchy-Tribune wire services

Ohio bill excuses schools, teachers from liability in shootings

Akron Beacon Journal

AKRON — A month after a local police officer and decorated combat veteran accidentally discharged his firearm in a school, the Ohio House passed legislation Wednesday that would remove liability for schools that make closed-door decisions about arming teachers.

Current Ohio law allows private and public schools to permit teachers to carry guns. It's a local decision. The proposed law would allow them to decide in private who can be armed and protect schools from liability issues if there is an accident.

State education officials currently do not track which schools have armed educators, nor does the Attorney General's Office, although school safety plans filed with the AG's office might include information on who in a school may have a weapon. The bill still makes that a voluntary disclosure, which means a police

officer responding to an emergency might not know who in the school is carrying a weapon.

The bill, moved from the House to the Senate on Wednesday, adds a requirement that employees authorized to carry a firearm undergo training provided by the Attorney General's Office, which did not participate in crafting the House bill.

9/11 museum admission fee stirs anger

Los Angeles Times

NEW YORK — When the 9/11 Memorial Museum opens in mid-May, it will have shards of the fallen World Trade Center towers. It will have walls covered with portraits of the nearly 3,000 victims, and the watch worn by Todd Beamer when he declared, "Let's roll," and helped launch an attack on the Flight 93 hijackers.

It will have a burned-out ambulance that raced to save people, and helmets of firefighters who battled dust and flames to reach those trapped in the ruins.

It will also have a \$24 admission fee, which directors say is needed to maintain the site, a cost that critics say undercuts the idea of ensuring that all the world can visit and learn from the tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001.

In a city where people shell out more than \$100 for tickets to "The Lion King," where the Bronx Zoo charges about \$20 a head, and where the Metropolitan Museum of Art's recommended donation is \$25, the Sept. 11 museum's fee has touched a nerve like no other.

Even victims' survivors and first responders, who will get in free, are split on the issue, which was formally announced Friday as museum officials detailed artifacts that will be on display and defended the entrance fee. et the Press."

Killer whale getting endangered species status

Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — The federal government wants Lolita, the orca snared 44 years ago in Penn Cove by whale hunters who sold her to a Florida

aquarium protected under the Endangered Species Act.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on Friday reversed itself and recommended the killer whale held by the Miami Seaquarium be governed by the same law that protects Puget Sound's wild southern resident killer whales.

The move could have implications for other endangered species held by zoos and aquariums and almost certainly will lead to a re-evaluation of the conditions of Lolita's captivity, which activists have complained about for years.

But it's not clear how or if this will affect the decades-long campaign to have the former member of L pod returned to Washington.

Howard Garrett of Orca Network, which has led the charge for Lolita's release, said that killer whales are such social animals he can't see how NOAA would allow an endangered female orca to remain isolated from other southern residents. "I think this is a very huge first step in the fantastic adventure of returning her to her home waters," Garrett said. "You can't put an endangered species into a circus act."

Compiled from McClatchy-Tribune wire services

Local businesses burglarized

Suspect caught on surveillance cameras



COURTESY OF HPD

Police are looking for this man, who allegedly broke into three businesses.

Police are seeking the community's help in identifying a man who burglarized three businesses in late December.

On Dec. 27, 2013, officers from the Harrisonburg Police Department responded to the businesses, located on 1600 block of East Market Street and Burgess Road. The burglaries occurred sometime between midnight and 2:30 a.m.

Police said it seems like one individual is responsible for all three burglaries. Surveillance images captured the male suspect, who appears to be about 5' 8" with a heavy-set build. He was last seen wearing a tan jacket, jeans, tan boots and a black beanie.

Police are urging anyone who might have information pertaining to this case to contact the Criminal Investigations Division at HPD at (540) 437-2640.

Tipsters can remain anonymous by calling CrimeSolvers at 540-574-5050. They can also text "HPD" plus the tip to CRIMES (274637).

-staff report

IN BRIEF

VIRGINIA

Attorney general opposes gay marriage ban

Mark Herring, Virginia's new attorney general, announced Thursday that he will not support the state's current ban on same-sex marriage, according to *The Daily News-Record*.

In a press conference in Richmond, Herring called the ban "unconstitutional."

Deb Fitzgerald, the chairwoman of the Harrisonburg Democratic Committee, said Virginia's overall conservatism has kept it behind on certain social issues like same-sex marriage.

"This is kind of an opportunity to put us ahead of history," Fitzgerald said. "Change is hard, and Virginia in many ways is a conservative state."

Former Va. governor and wife plead not guilty in corruption case

Former Va. Gov. Bob McDonnell and his wife, Maureen, are pleading not guilty against charges of corruption, according to *The Washington Post*.

The McDonnells are accused of requesting and accepting luxury gifts and money from Jonnie R. Williams, a businessman from Richmond. Gifts included a \$11,000 shopping spree for Maureen in New York City and a \$50,000 loan. The gifts total to at least \$165,000.

U.S. District Judge James Spencer set the McDonnell's jury trial to being on July 28.

MARYLAND

Three dead in mall shooting, police identify shooter

A shooting rampage on Saturday at a mall in Columbia, Md., has left three people dead, according to *The Washington Post*.

Howard County police said that the shooter, whom they've identified as 19-year-old Darion Marcus Aguilar, of College Park, Md., allegedly opened fire at about 11 a.m. inside a Zumiez store located on the mall's second level.

When police arrived at the scene, they found Aguilar dead from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound. It's unclear, police say, what Aguilar's motive was for the shooting.

Duke Hall in a new light

Art students get inspired by JMU's most recent renovation



LAURA WILKINS / THE BREEZE

One of the many new features in Duke Hall is its unique public seating arrangement, which includes a variety of seats, couches and study spaces.

By MADDIE PRICE
contributing writer

As JMU students returned to school to start the spring semester, the School of Art, Design & Art History unveiled its newly-renovated and state-of-the-art building, Duke Hall.

The new space is already inspiring professors and students of all majors with its spacious rooms, new technology and innovative layout.

"The new classrooms are set up perfectly for the way the instructors need to teach and for the way the students need to learn," freshman marketing major Grace Paterson, said. Paterson is currently enrolled in GARTH 205 Art History, Prehistory to Renaissance, in Duke.

"People really appreciate how nice this building really is and all the improvements and more space can really make a

"It sucked having everything scattered all over campus. It's really more emulating for, especially art students ... It feels a lot more designed than any other building on campus."

Allison Nickens
junior studio art major

difference," Paterson said.

Junior studio art major Allison Nickens said she appreciates having her classes in one building this semester, as opposed to

having classes dispersed between Montpelier Hall and the Studio Center on West Grace Street.

"It sucked having everything scattered all over campus," Nickens said. "It's really more emulating for, especially art students ... it feels a lot more designed than any other building on campus."

Nickens also said the new building allows in more natural light, which is crucial to the way artists perceive their work.

"[The other buildings] were pretty reliant on fluorescent light," Nickens said. "Lighting's kind of everything, especially when it comes to painting. If you paint something in really disgusting light, it'll look completely different when it's not in that disgusting light anymore."

The larger rooms make the classrooms

see **DUKE**, page 4

Frats continue to press for signs

Members ask city residents and government officials to remember their service to the community



JAMES CHUNG / THE BREEZE

In October, the city of Harrisonburg sent letters to several landlords who own fraternity houses, including 715 South Main St., the house of the former Delta Chi fraternity. The letter ordered the organizations to remove all visible signage that identified them as fraternities. The letters were prompted by complaints from city residents.

By ERIN FLYNN
The Breeze

Fraternity members are seeking new ways to get their signs and respect back from the Harrisonburg community.

Harrisonburg's Department of Planning and Community Development recently told landlords who owned houses rented by fraternities to take down their organization's paraphernalia from houses being used for fraternity events.

The city requested the removal of fraternity signs and letters from their houses due to complaints made by city residents in October. They were also asked to paint over any letters found on the properties.

In a previous interview with *The Breeze*, Stacey Turner, director of the Harrisonburg Department of Planning and Community Development, said that although residents had made complaints about trash and loud noise in the past, residents were now concerned about fraternities operating in the city.

Turner explained that an ordinance which was amended in the '80s, made it illegal for fraternities and sororities to operate in the city of Harrisonburg. "[Residents] are concerned with, generally, if a fraternity or sorority isn't

allowed to be there, if they're allowed to have signs," she said.

According to section 11-7-3 of Harrisonburg's city code, the owner or tenant of the property and the owner of the sign are held responsible for any violations.

Failing to comply would result in the city of Harrisonburg taking legal action, which could result in a class one misdemeanor, according to Turner.

According to an anonymous fraternity member, many landlords received letters enforcing the ordinance and some of these letters were accompanied by evidence, such as screenshots of Facebook events — proving that fraternity proceedings had taken place at those addresses.

Craig Smith, who has been a landowner in Harrisonburg for 30 years, said that immediately after hearing the city's request he asked the fraternities he leases houses to, including Tau Kappa Epsilon, Kappa Alpha Order, Sigma Chi, Alpha Tau Omega, Lambda Phi Epsilon Fraternity and Sigma Nu, to take down their letters and signs. He also offered help removing signs and letters that couldn't be taken down easily.

see **SIGNS**, page 4

HEALTH

Facility will also have a pharmacy and X-ray technology



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JMU UNIVERSITY HEALTH CENTER

The Office of Substance Abuse Prevention, Student Wellness and Outreach reception and a student work area will also be housed in the renovated hospital building with UHC. These offices will open in the fall.

from front

in the original 1959 health center,” Rodgers said. “The exam rooms will be very up-to-date with all electronic vital signs and exam instruments.”
For students, these changes are highly anticipated.
“I’m excited to see the new center, the old one was pretty crummy and had a lot of problems,” Sarah Kostinas, a senior nursing major, said. “I’d often find myself sitting next to someone contagious, and took issue with the carpeted floors. I knew for fact they couldn’t be sanitized, and that worried me a lot. At one point I was told that they had issues with asbestos, and I’m sad to say that I wasn’t surprised.”
While Kostinas experienced difficulties with the facility itself, some students had issues with the care they received.
“They gave me medicine that made me feel a lot worse. At best they provided a temporary fix, but never gave me anything to actually get rid of the problem,” Kelly Kowalewski, a sophomore Spanish and communication sciences and disorders double major, said. “While the people working there were always great, something just seemed to be lacking.”
Newton said the center also plans to bring in patient advocates whose role will be to serve as liaisons between students and the university. They will provide non-judgmental support groups for students struggling with difficult choices.
“This will allow for easy follow-ups while protecting confidentiality, which I think will be very beneficial,” Kostinas said.
Newton also explained that these advances will be aided greatly by technology, namely the addition of a secure online portal for students using the health center and their doctors.
The portal, Newton said, allows incoming students to submit insurance, immunizations and health records. Students can also schedule appointments with BASICS, International Travel Clinic, Allergy Clinic, a TB assessment, High Expectations program and communicate for lab testing.
The new space will also benefit students by offering multiple services all in one place.
“We have an area on the first floor for pharmacy, and will have a pharmacy technician to assist the doctors with dispensing a limited number of prescriptions,” Rodgers said. “There is also an area for X-rays, and we are in the process of finding bids for this service. This will save students a trip into town or to the hospital when we need to check for injuries, broken bones and chest X-rays for pneumonia.”

CONTACT Samantha Ellis at elliss1@dukes.jmu.edu.

DUKE

Improvements to building inspire students and faculty members

from page 3

feel more spacious than before renovations, making the building have an all-around more inviting feel.
“The rooms were often too small and cramped, especially for the larger lecture classes in the [other] building,” said William Nadai, a freshman history major.
The budget for the building was \$42 million and was largely used to construct resources that allow for more learning opportunities for students.
“I have received great feedback from students of all majors about how warm and welcoming this building is on the inside and how it looks from the outside,” said William Wightman, director of the Duke Hall project.
Wightman, who is also the director of the School of Art, Design & Art History said that the department was able to purchase new technology in sculptures, woodworking and fibers.
“These updates allow better productivity, as well as, upping safety requirements for students,” Wightman said.
The technology will allow students to be more interactive in the classroom. Duke Hall is the first building on campus to have all HD projectors. In addition, updated SMART boards were placed in many classrooms and lecture halls.
Nicker added she’s excited to use the new TC-2 loom, a digital weaving loom that is able to translate pictures into tapestry.
“We [will] have a thing to weave tapestry sort of realistically from pictures,” she said. “It’s crazy s***”
The loom is from Norway and hasn’t arrived at Duke Hall yet. It will be one of the first TC-2 looms to ever be housed in the United States.
Another component to the building is the unique seating. Unlike the old building, there is now a spacious lobby with a variety of chairs and couches where students can catch up on homework or meet with friends before class. There is also a glass wall that goes along with the open-concept theme of the building and showcases an open workspace.
“Design majors cannot believe how nice the public seating is in the building,” Wightman said.
The public seating is the same type of seating that design majors are learning about in their classes. The furniture mixes ’60s style low chairs and tables with barstool-like chairs with intertwining metal backing. This allows for students to directly use and make connections with a physical object while learning about them, Wightman said.
So far, the building consists of sculpture, fiber, woodshop and art history classes. In the summer, ceramics, metals and jewelry, printmaking, student art, painting, drawing and gallery will all added to the building and will be fully functional starting in the fall.
Nadai and Paterson both believe the addition of Duke Hall to JMU’s campus has allowed for a more comfortable and practical atmosphere. Overall, the addition of Duke Hall to JMU’s campus has given students new learning opportunities while providing more space and area for students to work.

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LAURA WILKINS / THE BREEZE

The newly-renovated Duke Hall has a lobby area with a large glass wall, which lets in more natural light.

SIGNS

Fraternities encouraged to improve relationship with community



JAMES CHUNG / THE BREEZE

In October, The Kappa Alpha Order house on 512 South Main St. was ordered to take down signs and paint over its basement door that had previously been decorated with fraternity symbols and letters.

from page 3

Smith thinks the city is handling the situation in an appropriate manner.
“The city was backed into a corner and had to respond [to the complaints],” Smith said. “I have no complaints about the city’s response.”
However, he still supports the fraternities.
“I hated to take the letters down,” Smith said. “I loved seeing them attached to the buildings and some were so tasteful ... I have to make sure the laws are followed, but I’m in [the fraternities’] corner.”
He said that he understands the fraternity members’ point of view on the situation.
“I think it’s upsetting for fraternities to see other commercial organizations still have signs,” Smith said. “I understand their frustrations with that.”
Upon being notified of the violation, many frustrated Greek life members approached Adam Lindberg, assistant director of the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life, for advice, asking him about the Harrisonburg law and what allows the city to enforce this.
Lindberg said he has provided them with advice and served as a listening ear and has also strongly encouraged them to comply with the city.
“I have a lot of respect for the city of Harrisonburg so I wanted to make sure that our organizations and the property owners were in compliance with the city’s requests,” Lindberg said.
He suggested that fraternities work on having a more positive presence in the community by sponsoring more events that provide the community with a better perception of the fraternity.
According to Sheldon Gagne, a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon, FSL told the fraternities that some local residents had problems with students in the community, including noise and litter. These problems were attributed to the fraternities.
“So [FSL] wanted us to show the community that we do good and that we aren’t the ‘Animal House stereotype that everyone thinks we [are]; and to show the values which our organizations stand on,” Gagne said.
Gagne, a junior business major, said that since TKE members were notified of the violation, TKE members have not only complied with the city, they’ve also deleted any evidence of fraternal activities on their social networking and online accounts.
In addition, Gagne said they also spent a day cleaning up Boyers Road, a highway the fraternity recently adopted.
After rush week, TKE plans to write a letter to the city about the positive activities it has hosted and participated in. Gagne is also considering attending a city council meeting so that he can better understand the situation and why it occurred.
Like Gagne, many may not fully understand these actions and why they took place, others don’t approve of how the situation was handled.
“There [hasn’t been] a clear communication throughout this whole thing,” an anonymous fraternity member said. “You’re hiding fraternities, which can be so beneficial to the student body and the community in general.”
Despite the mixed emotions of those involved, Smith said that the fraternities have been “extremely cooperative.”
And their efforts haven’t gone unnoticed by the city of Harrisonburg.
“The city is completely satisfied with the fraternities’ efforts to comply with [Harrisonburg],” Smith said.
But for these organizations, letters and signs don’t just serve as house decorations. For these establishments, these symbols represent their organization’s history and what they stand for as fraternities.
“People take pride in their letters,” Gagne said. “You know, we’re proud of our organizations.”
Smith thinks the recently enforced rules are unfair to the fraternities.
“They were stripped of their identity as fraternities,” he said.

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Obama launches special task force

Group will focus on combating sexual assaults on college campuses, president hopes to cast a spotlight on the issue

By **JASON FELCH AND LARRY GORDON**
Los Angeles Times

President Barack Obama launched a federal task force last Wednesday to combat sexual assault on college campuses, telling the estimated one in five women who are victims, "I've got your back."

Flanked by senior members of his Cabinet at the White House, Obama said he expected recommendations from the group within 90 days. He credited an "inspiring wave of student-led activism" that has cast a spotlight on the issue in recent years.

Obama called on men to get involved in the fight and "summon the bravery to stand up."

"We've got to keep teaching young men in particular to show women the respect they deserve and to recognize sexual violence and be outraged by it, and to do their part to stop it from happening in the first place," Obama said.

The East Room meeting was part of a series of events that the White House has held in the last couple of months to highlight the president's ability to focus attention on specific issues, often by getting groups outside the government to work on them. It's a way of moving forward on policy goals at a time when there's little chance of getting legislation through Congress.

The White House released a report finding that 22 million women and girls in the United States have been sexually assaulted, the majority by men they know.

The report, by the White House Council on Women and Girls, identified college as a particularly risky place for women, noting that campus rapists are often repeat offenders. Obama called on college presidents across the country to do more to prevent the assaults.

Wednesday's announcement was seen as a victory by many college activists, who have organized online in recent years to file

federal complaints against administrators.

"Having Obama come forward in such a public way is demanding a public shift," said Alexandra Brodsky, a law student at Yale University who co-filed a Title IX complaint against the school in 2011.

"With one report, one public statement, and the power of his office, President Obama just changed the course of sexual violence on campus," said Caroline Heldman, a politics professor at Occidental College — Obama's alma mater — who has helped student activists organize.

"We have a long way to go in this struggle, but campus administrators will no longer be able to drag their feet, retaliate against survivors and enact superficial instead of actual changes," she said.

The presidential spotlight comes amid a significant rise in federal complaints filed by students across the country under Title IX, an anti-discrimination law that requires impartial investigations of assault allegations, and the Clery Act, which mandates accurate reporting of campus crimes.

There were 30 Title IX complaints involving sexual violence in 2013, up from 11 in 2009, according to the Department of Education, which enforces the law.

In California, students have filed federal complaints against USC, Occidental College and the University of California, Berkeley alleging the schools discouraged victims from reporting their assaults and bungled the investigations required by the anti-discrimination law. Administrators have been more focused on protecting their public images than their students, the complaints say.

In September, Occidental came to a monetary settlement with at least 10 women who were part of the federal complaint.

State legislators have proposed new reporting laws for public campuses. In November, state auditors launched a review of four California campuses: San Diego State University; California State University,

Chico; UCLA and UC Berkeley. Amid the scrutiny, evidence has mounted that colleges have failed to comply with the federal laws.

"How do you sleep at night, knowing that while you are busy sweeping rape under the rug, your students are being assaulted because of your inaction? How would you feel if one of your children or someone you know went through this utterly useless, demeaning process?"

Sofie Karasek
UC Berkeley junior

Last fall, USC and Occidental acknowledged they had neglected to report dozens of sexual assaults in their annual crime reports in 2010 and 2011.

In December, a *Los Angeles Times* review found an additional two dozen or more sexual assaults that Occidental failed to report in 2012, a likely violation of the Clery Act.

As Obama spoke, UC Berkeley junior Sofie Karasek was telling a San Francisco meeting of the UC regents about her sexual assault at an off-campus event in 2012.

She said it took eight months for the university to conclude its investigation, and that she was only told that her assailant had violated the conduct code.

"How do you sleep at night, knowing that

while you are busy sweeping rape under the rug, your students are being assaulted because of your inaction?" Karasek said during the public comment period. "How would you feel if one of your children or someone you know went through this utterly useless, demeaning process?"

UC President Janet Napolitano told reporters later that "the basic question is, and what each chancellor needs to be sure of is: Are our campuses safe and, if an incident occurs, is the victim taken care of and is the perpetrator identified and punished accordingly?"

Similar stories to Karasek's have surfaced on campuses across the country.

The task force created by the president calls on federal agencies to coordinate their response to the complaints and crack down on schools who fail to comply with federal law.

Obama, the father of two girls, noted parallels with the ongoing controversy over sexual assaults in the military, saying, "sexual violence is more than just a crime against individuals. It threatens our families, it threatens our communities; ultimately, it threatens the entire country."

The White House report also called for changes in how law enforcement handles sexual assault cases.

Only 12 percent of campus assaults are reported to police, the report noted. When they are, they rarely lead to convictions. Among the reasons: Survivors can be too traumatized to come forward and police and prosecutors can be biased, doubting the credibility of victims or are reluctant to take on the difficult cases, the report said.

The report also called for faster processing of rape kits, which collect evidence that is vital to many prosecutions.

"In order to put an end to this violence, we as a nation must see it for what it is: a crime," the report said. "Not a misunderstanding, not a private matter, not anyone's right or any woman's fault."


Wire story courtesy of MCT Campus

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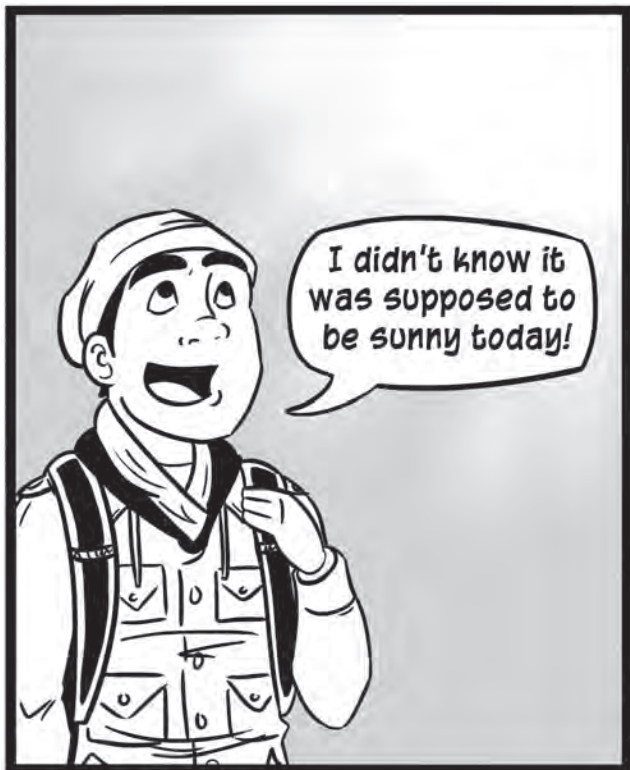
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HAYLEY THOMPSON | The Breeze

Driving a wedge between facts and ethics

Sports reporter's article ignites discussion on journalistic ethics and LGBT coverage

“Dr. V’s Magical Putter.” Sounds like the title of a sexy Harry Potter book set in a southern retirement community. But there’s really nothing magical about this story at all.

The article published by Grantland on Jan. 15 has slowly been making its rounds on the Internet, quietly rocking the

foundations of journalistic ethics.

To recap for those who haven’t heard about it yet, Grantland, an offshoot of ESPN that focuses on long-form

sports journalism, posted the piece following eight months of investigation on the Oracle GX1, a revolutionary putter that is quickly growing in popularity among pro golfers, and its creator, Essay Anne Vanderbilt.

The writer, Caleb Hannan, discovered that Vanderbilt, known in the golf world as Dr. V, had spun an elaborate web of lies that even the most crackpot team of ABC Family writers couldn’t dream up.

These lies include fabricating a resume, claiming to have worked on stealth bombers as a government contractor and, most importantly, refusing to verify her existence prior to 2003.

In his reporting, Hannan eventually discovered that Dr. V was transgender, having undergone surgery when she was 50 years old. Hannan continued digging deeper until he came into contact with Phil Kinney, a man who had invested \$60,000 toward the Oracle GX1. The more Hannan learned about V from Kinney, the more the dots started

to connect, forming an image of a troubled woman. During the course of their conversation, Hannan shared V’s transgender identity with Kinney. While not surprised, Kinney said he hadn’t known before.

This past October, not long after she was outed to Kinney, Dr. V committed suicide. Her body was found by her business partner and former girlfriend Gerri Jordan.

Most of the rebuttals to Hannan’s article argued that he crossed the line by telling Kinney about Dr. V being transgender. I think we can all agree that this argument is ethically sound.

A significant chunk of the article’s negative feedback also chastised Grantland for even publishing the transgender side of the story.

Slate executive editor Josh Levin responded to the piece four days after publication, aggregating opinions from some top sports journalists’ responses to the article. As many LGBT allies accused Hannan of not being able to understand Dr. V’s struggles, Levin points out that they cannot understand what it was like to be in Hannan’s shoes either.

“It is a piece of writing that breeds cynicism about journalists,” Levin said.

Journalists are a breed all their own. Admittedly, I’m still learning as a journalist, but oftentimes when journalists are just trying to report the truth, their efforts are misconstrued as attempts to cause trouble.

While outing Dr. V to Kinney was unethical, Hannan’s factual account was not.

The day after the article was posted to Grantland, Jordan read it and confirmed with the local newspaper that all of it was true, with the exception of misreporting Dr. V’s height by two inches.

The same article also quoted V’s outpatient nurse as saying that her transition to womanhood was atypical, as she wished to wipe her past away. When she met Jordan, Dr. V denied her past life saying that her family — she had two wives and fathered three children — died in a “tragic accident.”

Bill Simmons, editor-in-chief of Grantland, posted an apology on behalf of the site last Monday. Though he knew it was a very hard-hitting piece that needed much consideration, he admits that having each of his top staff look over it was not enough. Mainly because no one on staff knew much about transgender issues, they were focused on making sure the facts were reported properly.

Dr. V was a con artist who falsified her credentials and never returned a penny on Kinney’s investment, despite the club’s continued success. Unfortunately, this made each new discovery more disgusting than the last. The narrative progresses chronologically, with the ultimate discovery being Dr. V’s transgender identity; by the time the reader reaches this climax, Hannan’s disdain is evident.

“Hannan, though, conflates those two facts,” Levin said of Dr. V being both a con artist and transgender. “Acting as though the latter has some relation to the former.”

But when the story is this complex, how does one separate the two issues? Hannan was unable to verify Dr. V’s academic degrees and previous employment because “Essay Anne Vanderbilt,” didn’t exist before 2003. At least not on paper.

Even if her degrees are fake (her male identity was not verified by any of her supposed alma maters, either) the science behind the

putter still works. So how is a journalist supposed to tell this story of a woman with no verified background in physics who revolutionized a half-a-millennium-old sport without revealing why it was so easy for her to fabricate a new life?

While giving a negative connotation to being transgender was a huge oversight by the Grantland editorial staff, one lie led to another in this particular story, and there’s no way to tell one part without telling it all.

The lack of understanding about transgender people in journalism today — really in people in general — is undeniable. Compared to someone being gay or lesbian, it’s a fairly new idea, and is just now beginning to be accepted by the majority.

If nothing else, as a journalist I believe that we should be constantly questioning the ethics of what we do as a profession.

Dr. V was already a very troubled woman; Jordan has admitted that Dr. V had attempted suicide before. While Hannan’s reporting may have contributed to the timing, it was not the cause.

I could be just like Simmons. I come from a small town in Maryland, and to my knowledge, I’ve never met a transgender person. I admit that I could be missing a large part of the issue here because I have no first-hand

experience with transgender issues. But it’s impossible to tell this story, to explain the lengths the reporter went to to verify her resume as a scientist without explaining why he came up fruitless.

Hannan has the right as a journalist — in this country at least — to report on this story, and Simmons and his staff have the right to publish it. Hannan ran with the story that unfolded before him, and he only told the truth. Despite how controversial it has become, it’s a story that needed to be told.

This piece has brought the LGBT discussion to a platform that normally would not have covered it; consequently, there is now an audience paying attention to it that previously may not have.

If nothing else, as a journalist I believe that we should be constantly questioning the ethics of what we do as a profession.

The ethical issues concerning this piece lie in the structure and wording. The negative connotation that Hannan establishes for Dr. V’s transgender identity is the root of what we need to change. We need to constantly be re-evaluating how we report on issues as personal as someone’s sexual identity.

Whether it’s a journalist at a city desk who encounters LGBT stories daily or a sports reporter who happened upon a great tale while perusing the Internet for putting tips, we are, at our core, servants to the public. And it is our duty to represent them in the truest light we can possibly find.

We owe it to ourselves — and our readers — to keep this dialogue going.

Hayley Thompson is a senior media arts and design major. Contact Hayley at thompshm@dukes.jmu.edu.

DARTS & PATS

Darts & Pats are anonymously submitted and printed on a space-available basis. Submissions creatively depict a given situation, person or event and do not necessarily reflect the truth. Submit Darts & Pats at breezejmu.org

A “where’s-3-down?” dart to the crossword in Thursday’s The Breeze for missing a clue.

From an crossword-er that needs these puzzles to make it through the work day.

A “why-have-you-forsaken-us?” dart to the weather gods for not canceling school more often. From a very lazy and tired JMU student.

A “change-it-up” dart to Backcountry for making us pay a cover charge and then wait in crazy-long lines. From your patrons, who can take away business as quickly as we gave it.

A “sorry-I-offended-you” pat to the fellow Duke I upset. From the finance major who drives a blue pickup truck.

A “where’s-the-fire?” dart to my smoke detector for waking me up at 4 a.m. with its needy chirping.

From a tired junior who would really have appreciated you waiting until a decent hour to tell me you needed batteries.

An “honorable-discharge” pat to Cluckers for stepping aside so Dave’s could reclaim its throne. From a senior who couldn’t leave Harrisonburg without one more steak-and-cheese pita.

A “why-is-this-necessary?” dart to the JMU Computing HelpDesk for making me change my e-ID password every five minutes. From a senior who is running out of password ideas.

A “too-little-too-late” pat to I’m Shmacked. From a school that still doesn’t want you.

A “thanks-for-the-ride” pat to pledge season and the people doing sober rides. From someone who is sick of paying for cabs.

A “that’s-why-I-love-JMU” pat to the kind gentleman who swiped for my snack at the vending machine in Harrison Hall. From a starving woman who lost her JACard and would’ve had a really rough morning without your help.

A “you-saved-my-life-and-my-wallet” pat to the Parking Services employee who stopped giving me a ticket because she heard me unlock my car from across the street. From a student who wouldn’t have been able to afford the ticket.

A “thanks-for-the-memories” pat to Mike Hott and Lisa Bauer for making my community service so fun. From a student who didn’t know she could enjoy doing yard work in the Edith J. Carrier Arboretum.

A “would-you-like-some-cheese-with-that-whine” dart to people who wanted classes canceled on Wednesday too. From a student who wouldn’t want to make it up on a Saturday.

Editorial Policies

The Breeze MSC 6805 G1 Anthony-Seeger Hall Harrisonburg, VA 22807 breezeopinion@gmail.com

The Breeze welcomes and encourages readers to voice their opinions through letters and guest columns. Letters must be no longer than 250 words. Guest columns must be no more than 650 words.

The Breeze reserves the right to edit submissions for length, grammar and if material is libelous, factually inaccurate or unclear. The Breeze assumes the rights to any published work. Opinions expressed in this page, with the exception of editorials, are not necessarily those of The Breeze or its staff.

Letters and guest columns should be submitted in print or via e-mail and must include name, phone number, major/year if author is a current student (or year of graduation), professional title (if applicable) and place of residence if author is not a JMU student.

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“To the press alone, chequered as it is with abuses, the world is indebted for all the triumphs which have been gained by reason and humanity over error and oppression.”

— JAMES MADISON, 1800

WILLIAM MASON | contributing columnist

The future Oscar winners

This year’s nominees have some clear standouts

While the Oscars are still a little bit away, there has been a high level of buzz surrounding the release of the nominations last week. This buzz definitely stems from the high level of interest from the general movie-going population, as several on this year’s list went mainstream.

“Captain Phillips,” “The Wolf of Wall Street,” “Gravity” and “American Hustle” all made some serious cash at the box office, and all generated large fan bases. Since all of these movies are nominated for Best Picture, it is only fitting that this year’s Academy Awards Ceremony receives the attention it deserves.

Now, on to who should win, for Best Actor in a Leading Role there is no one else who deserves an Academy Award for his performance more than Leonardo DiCaprio. In “The Wolf of Wall Street” he was simply amazing. For almost three hours he was able to entertain as his drug-abusing, womanizing, law-breaking character Jordan Belfort. It is not often that a person can sit through a three-hour movie and actually wish that the movie kept going. The film has drawn some negative attention because of its record number of f-bombs, its use of prosthetic genitals and the large amount of nudity and sex that took place. However, what these critics don’t realize is that the movie was supposed to illustrate a story, and this story was about Belfort and his friends and co-workers living the ultimate hedonistic lifestyle, one that was brilliantly depicted throughout the film, especially by DiCaprio.

While he deserves the Oscar, his biggest competition comes from Matthew McConaughey, who gave the best performance of his career in “Dallas Buyers Club” playing Ron Woodroof, one of the first straight men to contract HIV/AIDS. For the film he lost an impressive 40 pounds from his already slim physique, but he also flawlessly depicted the sheer defiance of a character who was not willing to accept a death sentence, or the U.S. government’s inaction in looking for a cure.

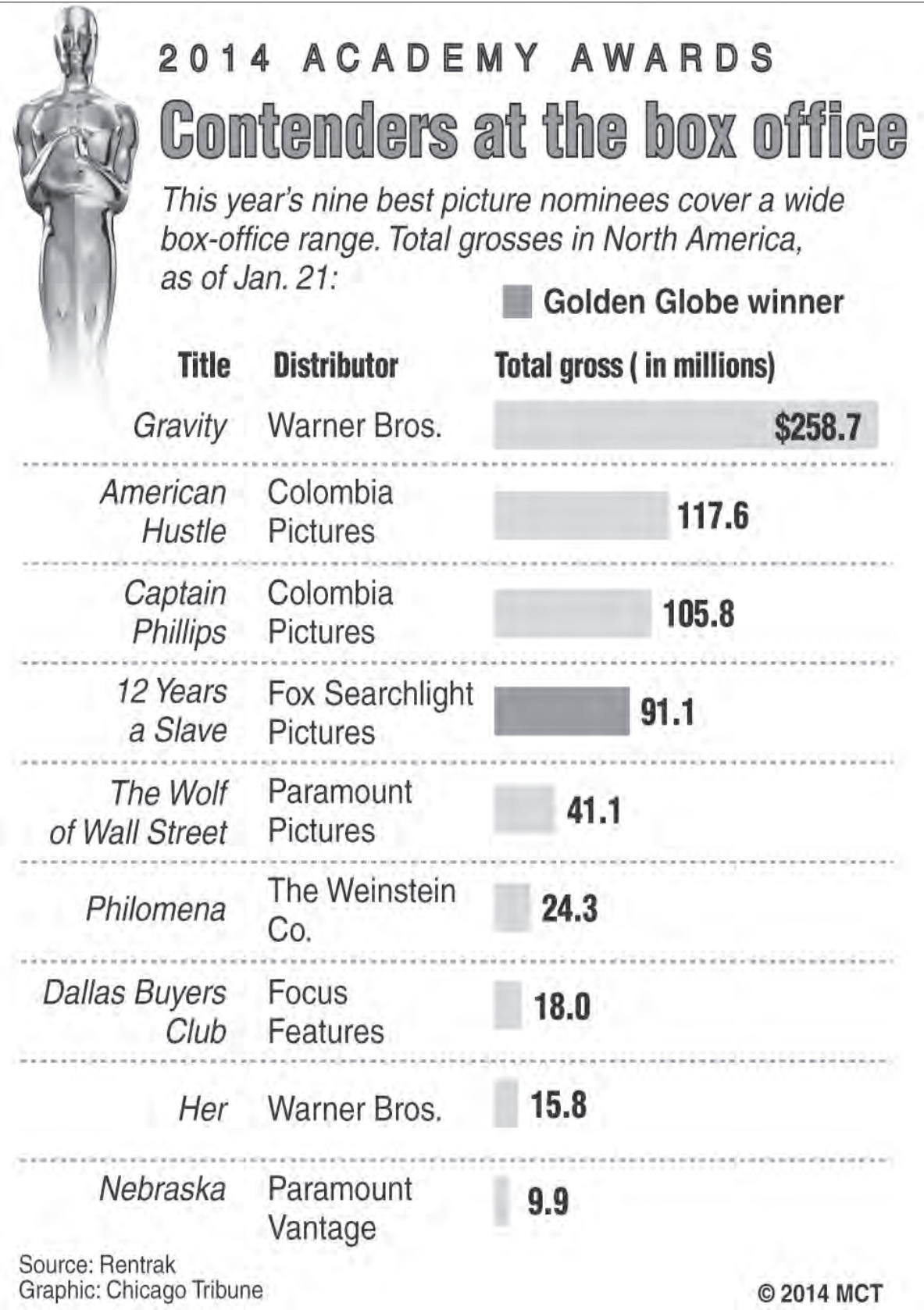
In the Best Actress in a Leading Role, two names stand out: Cate Blanchett for her performance in “Blue Jasmine” and Amy Adams for

her performance in “American Hustle.” Both actresses took home Golden Globes earlier this month, but for me Adams has to win. “American Hustle” was one of my favorite movies of the year, and the quality of acting by all the actors was spectacular, but after two nominations in the past, Adams finally got it right. She definitely deserves to win the Oscar for her role as the Sydney Prosser, a clever con woman who helps Christian Bale swindle dirty congressmen and FBI agents at the same time.

For the category of Best Actor in a Supporting Role, Jared Leto deserves the Oscar that seems to already have his name written on it. While I thoroughly enjoyed Jonah Hill’s performance as the comedic supporting role in “The Wolf on Wall Street,” the level of Leto’s performance in “Dallas Buyers Club” was out of this world. It was almost impossible to believe that acting is actually Leto’s side profession to singing for the band 30 Seconds to Mars. In “Dallas Buyers Club,” Leto plays a transvestite diagnosed with AIDS who is simply trying to live just a little bit longer. Leto’s performance brought tears to the eyes of just about everyone in the audience and an Oscar would definitely be a deserving reward for his acting in the film.

In the category of Best Actress in a Supporting Role, Jennifer Lawrence seems alone in the running. Her performance in “American Hustle” as the hysterically-unstable Rosalyn Rosenfeld was done with the quality that only such a brilliant actress could produce. Her character had so many levels of complexity it was impossible not to enjoy her performance as the antagonist. At 23, she is set to win back-to-back Oscars after winning last year for her role “Silver Linings Playbook.” She will be the youngest actress to do so, and she is making easy work of collecting Oscars, perhaps even making Meryl Streep jealous.

For Best Director and Best Picture, the awards will not go to the same film this year — somewhat of a rarity in Oscar tradition. Although



some may argue that David O. Russell deserves both awards for “American Hustle” he will probably only be walking away with the individual award, while “12 Years a Slave” looks set to edge “American Hustle” out of the way. While both films could win

awards in different years, the former brings to life the utter wickedness of slavery and one of the darkest points in American history. While the individuals involved in the process lost out in the other major categories, they worked perfectly together to

tell a complete story and deserve the award for Best Picture.

William Mason is a sophomore media arts and design major. Contact William at mason3wj@dukes.jmu.edu.

CALEB HARRINGTON | contributing columnist

Make the most of Harrisonburg

JMU students spend too much time worrying about the future

Here’s one you probably haven’t heard: “Harrisonburg will chew you up and spit you out,” or “I just need to get out of town, Harrisonburg is killing me.” Other than a few well-deserved gripes about the pungent smell of dog food after it rains, it’s hard to feel bitter about living here. This is a city rich with uninsurable jewels hidden from view, waiting to be discovered by you, me or anybody. But here’s the kicker: Our time here is limited, and if we spend too much time focused on where we’re headed, it’s easy to coast through college without ever enjoying the luxury of living in the here and now. And I say this not because I’m lobbying you on behalf of the local tourism board, but because I know this feeling too well.

Namely, it becomes easier to stay so focused on the future that our college-bound stint here in Harrisonburg becomes nothing more than a holding pattern.

Maybe it’s my families’ globe-trotting military background, or maybe I’m just stuck in my own head, but for whatever reason, my captivation toward the novelty of Harrisonburg wore off well before any real sense of attachment took hold of me. Shortly after moving here, I became enamored of Frank Sinatra’s ascent to greatness and shared his irrepressible desire to break free from the monotony that pervades and roll the dice in some fashionable city. That’s right, instead of delighting my venturesome spirit by say, exploring the reaches of the Shenandoah

Valley, bouldering at a nearby quarry or supporting a friend’s band at The Blue Nile, I focused too much on the future, feeling more caged in than before.

Now I’m sure few can relate to my weirdly-specific Sinatra-sized whims, but for anyone else who may be feeling like life is passing you by somewhere else, I feel obligated to warn you: there are certain risks to this kind of mindset. Namely, it becomes easier to stay so focused on the future that our college-bound stint here in Harrisonburg becomes nothing more than a holding pattern.

For many college students (myself included), our future-oriented mindset can be a powerful motivator. Why else would anyone trudge through the snow to get to an 8 a.m. class on a day like last Tuesday? While this forward-looking mentality is great for building character and bolstering class attendance, it can also keep us guarded from ever unmasking the hidden thrills that await us outside the so-called “JMU bubble.”

Harrisonburg may not boast the attractions of a major American city. Excuse me for pointing out the obvious here, but people don’t exactly flock from all corners of the Earth to come here. However, if you ask me, who needs the crowds and the promise of a bolder life in a brighter city to have a good time? The best way to fully experience life in the moment is to take advantage of the simplicity and seek out your own excitement, even if you’re sure (as Sinatra was) that “the best is yet to come.” After all, there are plenty of ways to run where the brave dare not go, without having to run too far.

Caleb Harrington is a junior communication sciences and disorders major. Contact Caleb at harrincw@dukes.jmu.edu.

CAROLINE ALKIRE | contributing columnist

We need a new alert system, stat!

After the snow day debacle, JMU needs to reform cancellations

When the weather calls for snow, every JMU student automatically reaches for their phones — waiting for a text message or email canceling classes. Most would agree that canceling classes the night before any kind of weather storm would be the safest and most appealing option for everyone, but the JMU administration seems to think differently.

Last Monday, night the weather report called for 6-8 inches of snow for Tuesday, and the general consensus of the student body was that the following day would be deemed a snow day. This was not the case as hundreds of students made their way to campus for 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. classes. The roads were icy and JMU did a terrible job of preparing the campus for this weather.

“The plows clearly hadn’t come yet, and the roads were very icy and snow covered. I found myself slipping multiple times, and my roommate even fell,” Erica Spencer, a sophomore interdisciplinary liberal studies major, said. The fact that JMU would allow students to travel to campus in unsafe conditions seems very irresponsible, but there has been speculation as to why classes are never canceled the night before.

Last year JMU canceled classes the preceding night for a “rain day” because of Hurricane Sandy and it left the entire campus in an unforeseen state of frenzy. Word of the “rain day” spread quickly, and swarms of students stampeded all over campus, blasting music, dancing and lifting other students into the air in celebration of canceled classes. There was a riot in Carrier Library, and crowds of students gathered in the Village and on the Quad. Some could argue that this riot was equally as dangerous as students driving on icy roads to class.

Many believe that JMU will no longer cancel classes the night before to avoid more celebratory riots that could cause harm to JMU property as well as students.

Although JMU may think that they are doing more good than harm by waiting to cancel classes, there are other alternatives than canceling at the last second.

“If the administration knows that the weather is going to bad and classes may need to be canceled, they could send out notice of a two hour delay the night before,” Rylie Rizzo, a sophomore psychology major, said. “Then they would have more time to notify students in the morning so the people who have earlier classes aren’t driving, or walking to class in bad conditions,”

All in all, the incident that occurred last Tuesday shows that JMU was irresponsible in their inability to cancel classes in a timely and safe manner. It was a huge mess that left many students angry, and left Twitter full of complaints that entertained those students who were lucky enough to stay in bed on Tuesday morning. The past “rain day” riots seem to have affected JMU’s decision in canceling classes, but this should not have to affect students’ safety when it comes to bad weather. Preparing the campus and notifying the students is something that should be the no. 1 priority in such circumstances. In the future I think most of the student body would agree: if JMU decides to hold classes on a snowy day, the campus should be prepared, and if classes are canceled, the student body should be notified in a more timely fashion.

Caroline Alkire is a sophomore media arts and design and writing, rhetoric and technical communication double major. Contact Caroline at alkireca@dukes.jmu.edu.

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**APPLY
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The night life *style*

Students turn passion for partying into a profit-rearing business



COURTESY OF CHRIS VELAZQUEZ

Students dance at Party Cartel and Young Life’s “Polar Party,” which 250 people attended on Friday. Party Cartel teams up with JMU’s Young Life at least twice a semester to host events.

By **LAUREN HUNT**
The Breeze

Some students call the party scene at JMU a lifestyle; the members of Party Cartel would agree. This group of JMU’s students-by-day and DJs-by-night has taken over the Harrisonburg party world.

It all started with a post on the JMU incoming freshmen Facebook page in 2011, where Chris Velazquez, a junior media arts and design major, and Eric Walisko (DJ Lisko), a senior integrated science and technology major, met and discovered that they both DJed.

“We knew on our own we were only capable of DJing one or two parties,” Velazquez said. “But we figured together we could create something bigger and work as a conglomerate of DJs and media producers to create something new and fresh.”

And that is exactly what they brought to JMU. They offer a full party package: sound equipment, lights, photographers and, most importantly, a DJ to cater to all kinds of groups on campus.

It’s not all fun and games, though. The group works hard behind the scenes as well as on stage to put their best possible product on the table and provide students with a unique and quality party experience.

“I’ve had multiple people who have been at parties that Party Cartel threw that said ‘I’ve never been to anything like that,’” Brandon Wong (DJ Wong), a senior biology major, said.

It requires hours of dedication and elbow grease to throw a party that warrants such a positive response.

“A gig, on average, takes 12 hours,” Walisko said. DJs not only produce the music for the party, but are required to set up the atmosphere of the scene. Party Cartel is a legitimate, tax-paying business, charging anywhere from \$250 to \$750 per party. Along with setup, providing equipment and breakdown, it also edits and posts pictures and videos from the parties online.

“... we figured together we could create something bigger and work as a conglomerate of DJs and media producers to create something new and fresh.”

Chris Velazquez
founder and COO of Party Cartel

“I see it as providing the whole party experience,” Velazquez said. “The party doesn’t end when the night ends. The pictures carry it on to the next night. You can almost relive the experience from the pictures and video.”

Last year Party Cartel did a show with DJ KapSlap, Sigma Chi and Pike. The video and pictures went viral and

has earned the Cartel recognition all along the East Coast.

Its hard work hasn’t gone unnoticed by students. Most consider parties thrown by Party Cartel to be successful.

“I’ve been to a decent number of [their parties]. They throw pretty great parties with good music and they draw a decent crowd, which is always fun,” Bethany Showalter, a sophomore communication studies major, said. “I like the energy.”

Party Cartel has managed to maintain a reputation for delivering the ultimate party experience while also keeping things under control.

“Most of the Party Cartel parties I’ve been to have a very comfortable feel to them,” Kylie Pearson, a sophomore communication sciences and disorders major, said. “They usually don’t get too out of control.”

Party Cartel works hard and plays hard. It takes pride in its difficult work and finds a successful party rewarding.

“There’s that 30-minute window in every party where everyone just goes crazy,” Velazquez said. “It’s the peak moment — everyone’s together, people just throw their hands in the air and the energy changes and they just start enjoying themselves.”

At the end of the day, Party Cartel is just happy to put on a party that everyone can enjoy.

“It’s not about the money, it’s not about people knowing who you are,” Wong said. “It’s when you’re there and you see all these people having the time of their lives and you’re like, ‘This is awesome. I’m so glad to be a part of this.’”

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1. DJ DeFuge and DJ Crumley make their debut as a duo act at Young Life’s “Polar Party” on Friday, which 250 students attended.

2. Mystery DJ “King of the Chungle,” Party Cartel founder Chris Velazquez’s protégé, spins for the Young Life Halloween party on Nov. 1. More than 500 people attended.

3. Students pack themselves onto the dance floor during the Young Life “Polar Party” on Friday.

4. DJ DeFuge and DJ Crumley man their stations and fuel the crowd at the “Polar Party.”

5. Students put their hands in the air and dance at Young Life’s Halloween party on Nov. 1.

6. Young Life students pose around a banner at the “Polar Party.” Party Cartel hosts events for Young Life at least twice a semester and says the organization brings the biggest crowds.

7. Party Cartel co-founder Chris Velazquez, dances in the middle of the Young Life “Polar Party.”

See more photos at

WEBSITE jmapartycartel.com
FACEBOOK [JMUPartyCartel](https://www.facebook.com/JMUPartyCartel)
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Back to basics

University Program Board president Matt Sedivy's music career takes flight



JAMES CHUNG / THE BREEZE

Matt Sedivy performs with his band on Friday. Sedivy has always had a passion for music and produces most of his music himself.

By DOMINIQUE LATEGANO
The Breeze

After planning so many entertainment programs, it makes sense that the president of JMU's University Program Board would want to try his own music on the stage.

Matt Sedivy, a senior music industry major, released his two-year musical creation "Taste In Seas" in November. The album made it onto the front page of NoiseTrade's website, and was also featured in *The Very Best of Virginia* magazine.

On Friday Sedivy performed with his band at the Treehouse, a residential house known for hosting music acts. His band consists of bass player Rob McWilliams, a senior communication studies major, and JMU '12 alumnus Rob Dunnenberger on drums. The Rob duo is part of the performance but Sedivy does all the production on his own.

Jackie Buono, a senior psychology major, attended the concert and was blown away. She was familiar with Sedivy's music, but seeing him live, from the front row, raised her listening experience to almost a "religious level."

"Most music these days just fills the air but Sedivy's music is an experience that makes you realize things about your life you didn't realize at an almost haunting level," Buono said. "The vulnerability makes the listening experience so overwhelmingly captivating."

Sedivy's music doesn't rely on having any particular messages so that they can be interpreted any way a listener wishes; Sedivy focuses mainly on the usage of instruments. He uses Logic Studio software on his Mac-Book, blending together live guitar, vocals and piano accompaniment; he

manipulates the tracks by adding the usage of MIDI drums to make his tracks appear as if they are live.

Rachel Corson, a senior sociology major, attends a lot of the local shows in Harrisonburg and recommends that the rest of JMU seize the opportunity to see more shows like Sedivy's.

"It was jam-packed in the basement, everyone was really enjoying themselves and vibing to the music. It was super put-together, they knew what they were doing and how to get the audience really into it," Corson said.

"Making music has been the love of my life for how long? And now all of a sudden people are saying they like it and they want to pay for it, it's just really mind-blowing."

Matt Sedivy
senior music industry major

According to Sedivy, "Taste In Seas" took two years of production simply "because life."

"Making music has been the love of my life for how long? And now all of a sudden people are saying they like it and they want to pay for it, it's just really mind-blowing," Sedivy said.

Sedivy released "Sketches" in 2011, a collection of different types of songs and cross-genre experimentats mixed with hard work. But "Taste In Seas" has a more fluid sound; listeners have

described it as something like the music of Grizzly Bear.

"I had no idea he wrote music like that, I can't even explain in words how real and undeniable every word lingers," Buono said. "I listened to his album back-to-back and the combination of his musical skill and lyrics is so moving and breathtaking, he's the real deal."

Also attending the show at the Treehouse on Friday was junior computer information systems major Ryle "Wild Bill" Edwards. Edwards described seeing Sedivy perform live as "dope," with a very diverse array of songs but with an introspective feel.

"It penetrated me deep to my core, my ears were seduced," Edwards said. "The energy in the room [was] palpable. It would go back and forth from being laid back and chill and then to a monumental display of emotions — a joyous medley."

"Taste In Seas" garnered thousands of plays on Bandcamp, landing on the best-selling new album chart. Sedivy's music is available on iTunes, Amazon, Spotify, Google Play, Bandcamp and NoiseTrade. The first batch of physical CDs and merchandise is on the way.

Sedivy describes himself as an "intense human sponge," soaking up everything life has to offer from Music Industry classes, to books and wise words from mentors. He is currently an independent musician, and doesn't wish to sign to a label right away, so that he can consider his options fully. Sedivy plans on continuing his solo career after college.

You can watch and listen to Matt Sedivy this today on WXJM at 8 p.m. and on Feb. 6 at Blue Nile.

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movie review

Frankenstein Frankenstinks

Action spin-off of Mary Shelley's classic novel would make her weep



COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

Aaron Eckhart stars as Adam, Dr. Frankenstein's creation in **"I, Frankenstein,"** which earned a mere 5 percent on Rotten Tomatoes.

By TRAVIS BARBOUR
The Breeze

The classic character of Frankenstein's monster returns in this new film, and he's not the lumbering, bumbling brute that many of us would recognize.

Aaron Eckhart plays Frankenstein's "monster" who looks a whole lot like a normal guy, just with some scars all over his body. Within the film, his character is referred to as Frankenstein, Adam, the monster, and even

"it." It's almost painfully difficult to connect with this character from the start.

His journey begins in a classic fashion: a crazy scientist creates life, the monster escapes, the scientist chases monster, etc. The elements of the original are there, but only for a short time. The plot takes a turn (for the worse) when the monster is cornered by what are apparently demons and we learn that a demon prince has commanded his followers to apprehend the creature for unknown reasons.

At this point, I was still kind of on-board, but the seas were getting rough. After being saved by flying stone gargoyles who can turn into people, the monster finds himself in The Gargoyle Order, who of serve kind as guardian angels in the never-ending fight between heaven and hell.

Frankenstein's monster is the key to something the demons need and it's The Gargoyle Order's job to try to ensure his safety from their apprehension.

So if you're still following me, you heard correctly. Angels (in the form of a-- kicking gargoyles) vs. demons ... throw in Frankenstein's monster, because why not? I can only assume that the pitch for this idea went similarly to the above sentence.

The script leaves everything to be desired. The storyline itself is convoluted and confusing and the characters aren't given any depth, so when one dies and the music swells, it's as if the filmmakers are begging you to feel something. The only thing I felt was sleep beginning to creep up on me.

Frankenstein wields two ... um metal sticks in his fight against the demons and donning an overcoat and a hoodie, he's just a few missed showers away from a demon-hunting hobo. Move over Buffy!

Famed actor Bill Nighy plays the villain, which I'll always approve of, but this script is so absurdly painful that even he can't pull it off, at one point screaming, "I AM A DEMON PRINCE!" Subtle ... real subtle. In fact, this film answers every question you have before you ask it.

Since the demons masquerade around as humans, there were a few times where I asked myself, "Is he a demon?" But before the thought even finished in my mind, bam: his eyes change red accompanied by a ridiculous sound effects.

There are very few pros for this film. Some of the battle scenes were fun to watch but being shrouded in such a stupid concept ruined them for me. I do appreciate that the movie was trying to give a different take on Frankenstein, but this was just too far out into left field.

Being a film about the battle between good and evil, I'm always excited to see how the filmmakers make both the angels and the demons appear since creativity is boundless. Unlike in "Constantine," which I think had a pretty original, subtle and highly captivating take on their portrayals, "I, Frankenstein" chose to make the angels look like the prince of Persia and the demons like drooling orcs.

I will give the film credit in the sense that it used actual makeup for the demons rather than CGI, so at least they tried.

If you're looking for a Van-Helsing feel mixed with little thinking and shotty acting, "I, Frankenstein" definitely takes the cake. But if I were you, I'd save my money. What you're seeing is not a typo, I'm actually giving this film zero stars, cause it really doesn't deserve one.

Travis Barbour is a senior media arts and design major. Contact him at barboutx@dukes.jmu.edu.

PROJECT | The 24 Hour Project featured performances from several student organizations

from front

The 24 Hour Project had been in preparation since July. Artists were selected for the event by a panel who reviewed submissions; the panel then chose the acts that they believed the audience would enjoy the most and suit the local vibe. In total, the panel chose 46 acts that were eager to perform.

JMU's New and Improv'd performed several "games," or sketches, at 11 a.m. on Saturday. Despite a lack of students in the audience, senior psychology major and New and Improv'd member Adrian Jarvis said their act was well-received.

"The audience was really great, they had great energy which was risky because it was 11 in the morning," Jarvis said. "But everybody seemed to think it was funny and we had a good time. It was cool, it was good to mix JMU and Harrisonburg in the arts."

Laurie Benadi, one of the creators of the 24 Hour Project, worked tirelessly to bring the event to the stage. With the project now behind her, she believes it was a success.

"It's been pretty stressful but now it's going to be less me and more of the performers making their own rules," Benadi said.

From the perspective of an audience member at the event, it seemed that Benadi's intuition was right: each act was very appreciative of the artist that preceded him or her, and was excited to share their art with other local artists and audience members.

Featured in the lineup for the 24 Hour Project were some of JMU's own talent, including the JMU Experimental Theater, JMU Horn Society, Maddy Night Live and members of JMU's upcoming theater production of "Our Glorious Cause." JMU entertainers did not clash with the local artists, but helped create a blend of Shenandoah Valley culture.

"I thought that it was really a cool and eclectic event that, as a JMU student, made me feel more appreciative of the local arts in the Harrisonburg community," Lauren Core, a senior media arts and design major, said.

As the 24 Hour Project came to a close, many wondered if this experiment could later be an annual event.

"We're gonna see how it goes and hopefully we'll be more prepared for next year," Benadi said.

Whether or not the event will become an annual occasion, this year's 24 Hour Project completed its purpose of entertaining the public. By bringing together a diverse group of local artists, the project brought awareness and appreciation for art in the Harrisonburg community.



TRIXIE HADDON / THE BREEZE

Ivan Christo performs stand-up comedy and reads essays during his 15-minute shift during the 24 Hour Project at Court Square Theater.

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL (15-4)

In the driver's seat

Newman captains JMU offense with hybrid 'point-forward' role



HOLLY WARFIELD / THE BREEZE

Redshirt senior forward Nikki Newman takes on the point guard responsibility in her new role as a "point-forward." Newman has averaged 7.8 assists per game since conference play started.

By WAYNE EPPS JR.
The Breeze

Redshirt senior forward Nikki Newman has been sporting some battle gear on the court lately.

Diving on the hardwood was beginning to take its toll. So Newman now suits up with basketball knee pads. Depending on who you ask, the knee pads were either a decision voted on by her teammates or a mandatory order from head coach Kenny Brooks after JMU's Jan. 12 game against the University of Delaware. Regardless, Newman isn't exactly enthused by it.

"I don't like them at all," Newman said in the postgame press conference following Thursday's win over Drexel University. "But since I'm being forced to wear them, I wear them ..."

"We're trying to help our teammate out — her knees — we're trying to save them up," sophomore guard Precious Hall said.

The fact that Newman's teammates and coach are forcing this move for her own good, speaks to how much she means to the team. And since conference play has already started, her role has expanded and evolved as she's taken on the "point-forward" position. It's a hybrid between Newman's usual forward spot and the point guard spot.

"Like [basketball hall of famer] Scottie Pippen almost," Brooks said about the point-forward position. "She's forward by design, by length. But as soon as we get to the point where we're getting into our sets, we want her at the top of the key."

With Newman at the top, heading the offense, she can help the Dukes overcome the zone-style defenses that they've been facing. She can see over the zone, which creates a wall of defenders, to find her teammates.

"She's a great passer, a great passer," Brooks said. "And she sees so many different things and she passes the ball."

And with an average of seven assists per game through the five Colonial Athletic Association contests JMU has

played so far, finding her teammates and feeding them the ball is exactly what Newman is doing. That stat is quite an improvement considering she averaged just 2.2 assists per game in 14 non-conference games this season.

Hall might be the teammate who is benefiting the most from Newman's control of JMU's offense. Newman running point takes the responsibility off of Hall, giving her more opportunities to get open and score. In conference play, she's averaging 18.3 points per game.

Nikki Newman in conference play

Points per game: 7.8

Assists per game: 7

Rebounds per game: 6

Blocks per game: 2.4

Steals per game: 2.2

"I kind of like when Nikki brings the ball up the court," Hall said. "She has a good vision, she's very smart with the ball. And it opens a lot more stuff up on the wings."

At the point-forward spot, Newman also gets more of her own chances to shoot. Her shot is something that has morphed completely since her days at Turner Ashby High School.

"That's pretty much one of the main things that I've personally worked on," Newman said.

Brooks said he's probably seen Newman take 10,000 shots since she's been at JMU, in an attempt to get her shot to where it is now. And while it's not consistent, according to Brooks, he said it sometimes rivals the shot of her

teammate, senior guard Kirby Burkholder. Burkholder leads the CAA in three-pointers made with 54 (2.8 per game).

"It's totally different," Brooks said. "When I saw her shot when she first got to us, it was the most puzzling look I've ever had on my face, because I didn't know how she was getting the ball up there, I didn't. It was one of the most unorthodox things I've seen. And I'm not saying anything that I haven't said to her."

In her first foray into conference play since 2012, Newman is becoming more comfortable and confident as a shooter, which may be more important than her actual shot mechanics. She set a new career-high with four three-pointers Thursday and also set a season-high with 14 points.

As a junior, Newman actually started to improve as a shooter by the end of the 2011-12 season. She set what was then a career-high with three, three-pointers against the University of South Florida in the Women's National Invitation Tournament Round of 16. Then she tied the mark a week later against Oklahoma State University in the finals.

The 2012 WNIT was also when Brooks first tried Newman at the point-forward spot. Last season, Newman only played in the first nine games because of a broken foot, leaving Brooks unable to get the chance to try her there again. Now, with the current group of players comfortable enough with each other, Brooks has her there again.

"I am a lot more comfortable out there instead of with my back to the basket, so it's been nice for me," Newman said.

JMU is beating conference opponents by an average of 26 points so far, as the team remains undefeated in the CAA, and Newman's contributions at point-forward play no small part in that.

"She's playing well; we're playing well," Brooks said.

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FOOTBALL

JMU defense gets its ringleader

Former John Carroll University defensive coordinator Brandon Staley fills same position for Dukes

By WAYNE EPPS JR.
The Breeze

Last week, JMU officially added the centerpiece of its defensive staff with the hiring of defensive coordinator Brandon Staley. Staley, 31, comes to JMU by way of John Carroll University, a Division III school in Ohio. The Blue Streaks went 9-2 last season and had the top defense in the Ohio Athletic Conference, giving up 229.1 yards per game.

After graduating from the University of Dayton, where he played quarterback, Staley started his coaching career in 2006 as a graduate assistant at Northern Illinois University, working with the defense and special teams. We caught up with Staley in his first week on the job and talked about what we can expect from JMU's defensive corps this season.

What was the process like being in contact with head coach Everett Withers and becoming the defensive coordinator? It was an exciting process. Coach Withers and I knew several people in common. A lot of the people that I've worked with at Tennessee [in 2012 as a defensive graduate assistant] and at Northern Illinois had worked with coach Withers at North Carolina. I worked for Sal Sunseri, who worked with coach Withers at Louisville. And, there were three guys on the staff at Tennessee that had either coached coach Withers, or had coached with him ... And, although we didn't know each other directly, it really felt like we did when we first met. Because we knew so many people in common.

When did it become official? My first day on campus was [last] weekend, on [Jan. 18]. So my wife Amy and I drove up from Cleveland and got here Saturday for part of the visit, and just kind of jumped right in. Everybody made us feel really, really welcome. And so it was a pretty seamless transition.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK BEANE

Brandon Staley was a defensive coordinator at Division III John Carroll University in Ohio last season. The Blue Streaks went 9-2 overall.

What's been your first impressions of the team so far? I think that, No. 1, this is a great place to go to school. It's one of the top public schools on the East Coast, and it's just a really beautiful place, with the mountains and just campus itself. And, that there's a standard of excellence on this campus that's easy to see right when you walk into campus. And the athletic facilities are really second-to-none, and you tell that football is really important here. And there's a certain energy about football on this campus. And certainly you understand that JMU has won a national

championship before, and so there's that standard of excellence. There were a lot of things that drew us to James Madison, but especially the people here that have made it so successful. Our athletic director, and certainly coach Withers and his background. Obviously he's had great experiences as a coach, but, more importantly, in the coaching profession everybody sees him as one of the best men in the profession. And that was very important to Amy and me in this process.

BASKETBALL

| 'It's a big win for us, and it's a big win for JMU Nation'



Sophomore guard Ron Curry scored 12 points in JMU's 58-56 win over the College of Charleston.

from front

take. Everyone played hard defense.”

JMU needed someone to step up more than they needed a win. Freshman guard Jackson Kent's presence was felt through his confident play. Despite his 185-pound stature — tiny for college standards, considering his listed height of 6'7” — Kent earned court credit Saturday.

With sophomore guard and leading scorer Charles Cooke out with a sprained ankle, the Dukes were trying to fill a 15-point gap missing from their rotation.

Kent stepped up when needed most, finishing with a career-high 17 points on 6-12 shooting, going 3-6 from downtown. This contributed to JMU shooting 50 percent (6-12) from deep — a season high. To put that percentage into perspective, the Dukes averaged 26.8 percent behind the arc coming into Saturday.

Whether it was from deep or in the paint, Kent made a statement, sporting a facial expression after each bucket as if someone had told him he'd never succeed.

“Jackson, man, he came through in the clutch,” sophomore guard Andre Nation said. “It was exciting just to watch that.”

The Dukes — as coach Matt Brady predicted — found themselves locked in a nail-biter as time ticked away late in the second half. Cooke sat on the bench in a purple polo and gray athletic pants. He vocally cheered for the Dukes the entire game while Kent did all the talking with his play on the court.

He found his stride midway through the second half, scoring 10 straight points for JMU between the 10:25 and 7:22 mark.

“It feels good that we got a win and the hard work paid off,” Nation said. “It's definitely good to see a young boy step up and make big-time plays.”

Kent's previous career high came on Nov. 27 when he scored 16 against Valparaiso University.

“I felt like everyone had to step up,” Kent said. “After the first few shots went down, it felt good,” he said. “I just stayed confident and didn't try to force anything.”

In front of 3,987 fans, JMU got its first home win while some make-up classes were in session after Tuesday's snow day. The Dukes lead the Colonial Athletic Association averaging 4,014 fans per game coming into Saturday. They're the only team averaging over the four thousand mark.

According to coach Brady, it was a win on multiple levels.

“I think our kids were rewarded for a really hard week of practice,” Brady said. “I felt like our kids needed some positive affirmation and just as important we needed to reward our community and our students for all the support that they've given our program. It was a great crowd and we're really thankful for it.”

As Brady's said all season, this team is an

experiment — an investment.

“We're really grateful,” Brady said. “This is going to be a really fun team to watch grow in the next couple of years. The nucleus is really solid. If we don't have any more injuries or ankle sprains, we're a very solid footing.”

While 18 days may seem like no time to a college student, that's the time span in between JMU's last win (Jan. 7 against UNCW) and Saturday's convincing victory, one that snapped a four-game losing skid.

“It means a lot. We needed a win to keep us out of last place,” Nation said. “The CAA is wide open so we could start a six-game win streak right now and be first or second. You never know, but it always starts with one win.”

The Dukes were patient when it mattered Saturday, making the extra pass, not heaving up contested shots. It's something a young team can easily struggle with, but Nation said that they can correct it.

“We do that all the time in practice,” Nation said. “We share the ball really good, we just had to bring it to the game and today we did that. We trusted each other more tonight. That's what got us the 'W' tonight, was just trusting each other.”

The team finished with 11 assists, three more than its average. JMU also shot 41 percent from the field.

With momentum on its side, Charleston came in with all the odds in its favor. The Cougars were coming off a win and they were sharing minutes and production evenly. Plus they had already beaten JMU in its inaugural CAA game back on Jan. 7, 75-61.

Since then, the Cougars went 2-2; JMU dropped three straight.

“We can learn from winning now. I'm not measuring this team yet with wins and losses,” Brady said. “It's certainly more pleasant to win, no doubt about it. I don't know where we're going to finish in the race, but we just want to get better. We want to get healthy.”

Cooke's injury (sprained ankle) was a devastating blow to an already struggling team last Saturday, but Brady sees some light at the end of the tunnel. This isn't his first rodeo in this department.

“I've had very few healthy teams,” Brady said. “If this team can get healthy and we can all be playing our best basketball, I'm not sure we're a team people want to play in March.”

The Dukes (7-13, 2-4 CAA) head north this week to face Northeastern University (7-14, 4-3 CAA) Wednesday night in Boston. JMU will look to avenge a previous loss earlier in the season by an opponent, just like it did Saturday. Northeastern beat JMU 56-52 in Harrisonburg back on Jan. 15.

“It's a big win for us and it's a big win for JMU Nation,” Curry said.

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FOOTBALL

| 'We've got a passion for what we're doing ... we're all hungry'

from page 11

Obviously, defense has been a stalwart of JMU teams. So what things might you keep the same schematically from some of the teams in the past? Well I haven't watched any of the film from last season. And so I can't really speak on that. I know that coach Withers and myself, we want to be aggressive, we want to be extremely physical and we want to be a defense that's built to match up so that week-to-week, no matter who we're playing against or what style offense we're playing against, that we're going to match-up with that and we're going to, by doing that, be able to be really aggressive. And so that's going to be one of the hallmarks of our defense, is that we're going to play a lot of people, we're going to play a lot of different personnel groupings. But at the same time, we're just going to play with a lot of energy and play extremely fundamental. And that's really what wins championships, is playing hard and playing with great fundamentals, and then having a great spirit of team on your defense. And that's what we're going to try and create. We're going to try and create an environment where playing defense at JMU is a lot of fun; it's something that guys look forward to.

Coach Withers has been a coach on the defensive side of the ball for most of his career, so how much do you think you will kind of work hand-in-hand in developing the plan each week? Everything's a team effort. And that goes for offense, defense and special teams. So obviously we're going to work hand-in-hand. And, certainly, there are a lot of things that we believe in the same, and that's what we're going to try and accomplish. We're going to try and fit what we believe into the talents of our players, and so the big thing is just trying to do what they do best. And you hear that a lot, but you got to have a scheme, you

got to have a system that's flexible enough to do that. And that's one thing that we feel like we have, is a system that's flexible enough to fit the needs of our players. But also, we're going to be built on certain principles that don't change and that we feel like are going to be staples within our program.

Though you haven't watched film of them, how do you think JMU's current personnel fits into the kind of plan that you're going to bring? Well I think that we have a lot of good players here. I know that we have a big senior class, and I know that we have a lot of young players that have played a lot of football here. So we're excited about that. It's always good when you have players that have played in the games, and that have been out there against really good opponents. Because that makes the learning a lot easier, because they've gone through the tough situations that you face on game day. So I think that the big thing is, where I was at before, [I] came into a situation where what we were doing was completely different than what they had done before. But I think the key is, when you identify your personnel, you got to put your people in the positions to be successful. And so you got to put them in the right spots so that they can do what they do best. And that's what we're going to spend a lot of time on initially, is just getting our players in the right positions.

Coach Withers has talked about bringing "juice" to the program. Is that kind of the feeling that you've gotten so far the time that you've been here, a lot of passion and energy being brought? Yeah I think that passion is probably the best word in there. It's just, we've got a passion for what we're doing. And I don't think it really matters how old you are, it matters what type of experiences you've had. And

what you've been able to accomplish with the opportunities that you've been given. And I think that the one thing about our coaching staff is that we're all very, very hungry to prove ourselves. I know that we come from different backgrounds, but coach Withers was looking for a certain type of coach. And I think we all fit his mold of what he was looking for. And I know that we love coaching players, and I know that that's the most important thing out of all the attributes of a coach. You have to love coaching players and being around the players, being in their lives. And I think that that's probably one thing that's going to be something that stands out to fans and alumni and people on the outside. It's just how close we are to our players. We're going to try to and be extremely close with them. And build those lifelong relationships that extend far beyond football.

What's going to be your top priorities in the next couple months leading up to spring practice? The biggest priority for me is to get to know the players. I've already met several of them and got to see them move around a little bit in a morning workout. But the biggest thing is developing that relationship with our players, and developing that trust and identifying who they are, how they learn, what they do well on the field. Getting to know him as a person, as a student. And that way we can go out and really, really improve every time we go out there. Because everybody wants to rush to get things done and install defense and talk X's and O's, but that's the easy part. The hard part is developing that relationship that is going to get you through the tough situations in a game and over the course of a season ... And so I think if we do those things, that we're going to be in great shape.

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